

25X1 MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]  
Deputy to the DCI for Resource Management

25X1 FROM: [REDACTED]  
Deputy to the DCI for Collection Tasking

SUBJECT: Satellite Reconnaissance Security  
Policy Alternatives

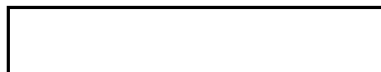
REFERENCE: IC 78-5244, 5 September 1978

1. Our major concern with the current paper on this subject, as forwarded under reference, is the continued lack of precision in dealing with the issue of "facts about" US imagery satellite programs, particularly with regard to the identification and capabilities of the collection systems themselves.

2. The present paper deals with only two facets of data on the US imagery satellite programs: (a) the "fact of"; and (b) declassification of the derived intelligence and imagery products. Between these two lies the additional data category of the whole range of detail relating to the NRP imagery collection program itself and the satellite systems it employs. Declassification of only the basic "fact of" is of extremely limited value in developing public confidence in US monitoring capabilities. To achieve the benefits cited in the present version, some "facts about" the NRP and the collection systems would be required. That step raises a broad range of issues and risks that are not adequately addressed in the present paper since the question is not precisely identified.

3. This can only result in general confusion and interpretive arguments when we turn to attempting implementation. It is desirable to have this issue thrashed out in advance of Presidential decision. In any case, since all of the alternative decision actions proposed in the present paper call for further study or prior preparation of implementing guidelines I would expect to be able to deal further with this problem at that time.

4. While I support declassification of the "fact of" a US imagery satellite program, the further issue of declassifying the products of that program is a grave one, requiring the most thorough study. I believe that the serious risks associated with such a step should be better highlighted in the paper. For example, the last two "ticks" on page 5 should lead off the listing of risks.



25X1